

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please revise claims 1, 2 and 3, as shown.

Cancel claims 4 and 5.

I CLAIM:

1. (Currently Amended) A rocket assisted payload launch system comprising:

a) a metal container including first and second end walls, said end walls being parallel to each other;

b) said container further including first and second side walls, said side walls being parallel to each other;

c) a bottom wall extending between said end walls and said side walls to seal said container;

d) a plurality of containerized concentric tubes retained within the interior of said container for discharging rocket assisted payloads;

e) each rocket assisted payload including a booster rocket, and a payload releasably mounted atop said booster rocker;

~~e)~~ f) each containerized concentric launch tube ~~opening~~ having a sealed bottom and an upwardly opening top;

~~f)~~ g) means for retaining said containerized concentric launch tubes in ~~an~~ a fixed upstanding, vertically oriented array within the interior of said container;

~~g) said containerized concentric launch tubes being spaced apart by a predetermined distance;~~

h) an umbilical cord connected to the each containerized concentric launch tube and adapted to deliver power for ignition to the booster rocket of the a rocket assisted payload inserted into the tube; and

i) a sequence controller connected to the umbilical cord of each rocket assisted payload within a containerized concentric launch tube so that the booster rockets for the rocket assisted payloads within the containerized concentric tubes can be selectively energized by said controller.

2. (Currently Amended) A rocket assisted payload launch system as defined in claim 1 wherein said container is twenty

feet in length, eight feet in width, and eight feet high, ~~and is fabricated of heavy gauge metal.~~

3. (Currently Amended) A rocket assisted payload launch system as defined in claim 1 wherein ~~spacers maintain~~ said containerized concentric launch tubes are maintained about a foot apart, measured from the center of one missile launch to the center of the adjacent missile launch tube.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A rocket assisted payload launch system as defined in claim 2 wherein containers are stacked atop one another to increase the capacity of the system.

7. (Previously Presented) A rocket assisted payload launch system as defined in claim 2 wherein containers are stacked adjacent to each other to increase the capacity of the system.